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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

You are awesome, O God. We acknowledge Your sovereignty and might. Give our Senators a sense of Your nearness, as You nourish them with the reality of Your presence. Take their human and finite minds and illuminate them with the light of Your eternal wisdom. May their daily lives validate the faith of our Nation's Founders and all who have sacrificed for freedom. Teach them to think seriously about the blessings of liberty and help them to be grateful for this land of freedom.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 17, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the Federal Aviation Administration bill. There will be up to 2 hours for debate equally divided and controlled between the proponents and opponents of the Inhofe amendment prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Inhofe amendment, as modified. The filing deadline for second-degree amendments to this bill is 10 a.m. today. As a reminder, cloture was also filed on the bill. That cloture vote will occur upon disposition of the Inhofe amendment or, if cloture is not invoked on the Inhofe amendment, immediately following the Inhofe cloture vote. Senators should expect rollcall votes to occur throughout the day in an effort to complete action on the FAA bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the previous order for Senator Coats to be recognized at 1:30 p.m. be vitiated.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### FAA AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are at a point where we can finish the FAA bill after all these many years. That was not a mistake. For years, we have been trying to get this bill completed. We are going to have a vote in 2½ hours, an important vote dealing with the so-called slot arrangement; that is, what air companies get to fly into which air-

ports and what time and all that stuff. It has been very controversial.

We have had two main issues that have held up this legislation. One is a labor-management disagreement. That has gone away. Now we have the issue dealing with slots that will go away as a result of the cloture vote that will occur sometime in the next 2½ hours.

We can complete this legislation today. There is no reason we can't complete the legislation today. We have a number of votes that will have to be cast. That is something we will do. We are going to work to complete this legislation. Today is Thursday. It would be an appropriate time to finish.

As I mentioned last night, we have the Presidents Day recess when we need to go home to constituents. As I mentioned last night, I am always amazed—a lot of times, the press writes that we have gone back for a break, and oftentimes they write as if we are going to go back and leisurely hang around the house. The fact is, when we go home, we have a lot of work to do. Our constituents throughout the State are there during the week. We have government buildings that are open, and we can go visit there and do all the many things we have to do. For example, I have to address the Nevada State Legislature next week. These are the kinds of things we need to do during the time we go home.

I, like everyone else, would like to get back to my home in Searchlight more quickly, but we have to finish this legislation. There is no reason we can't. Everyone has had their opportunity to debate, to offer amendments. We could have as many as eight or nine amendments to vote on. There is work being done with Senator COBURN now to see if we can somehow condense his five amendments to a couple. The managers will work that out. We are on a path to being able to finish this legislation. I hope we can finish today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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